

ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
1947.

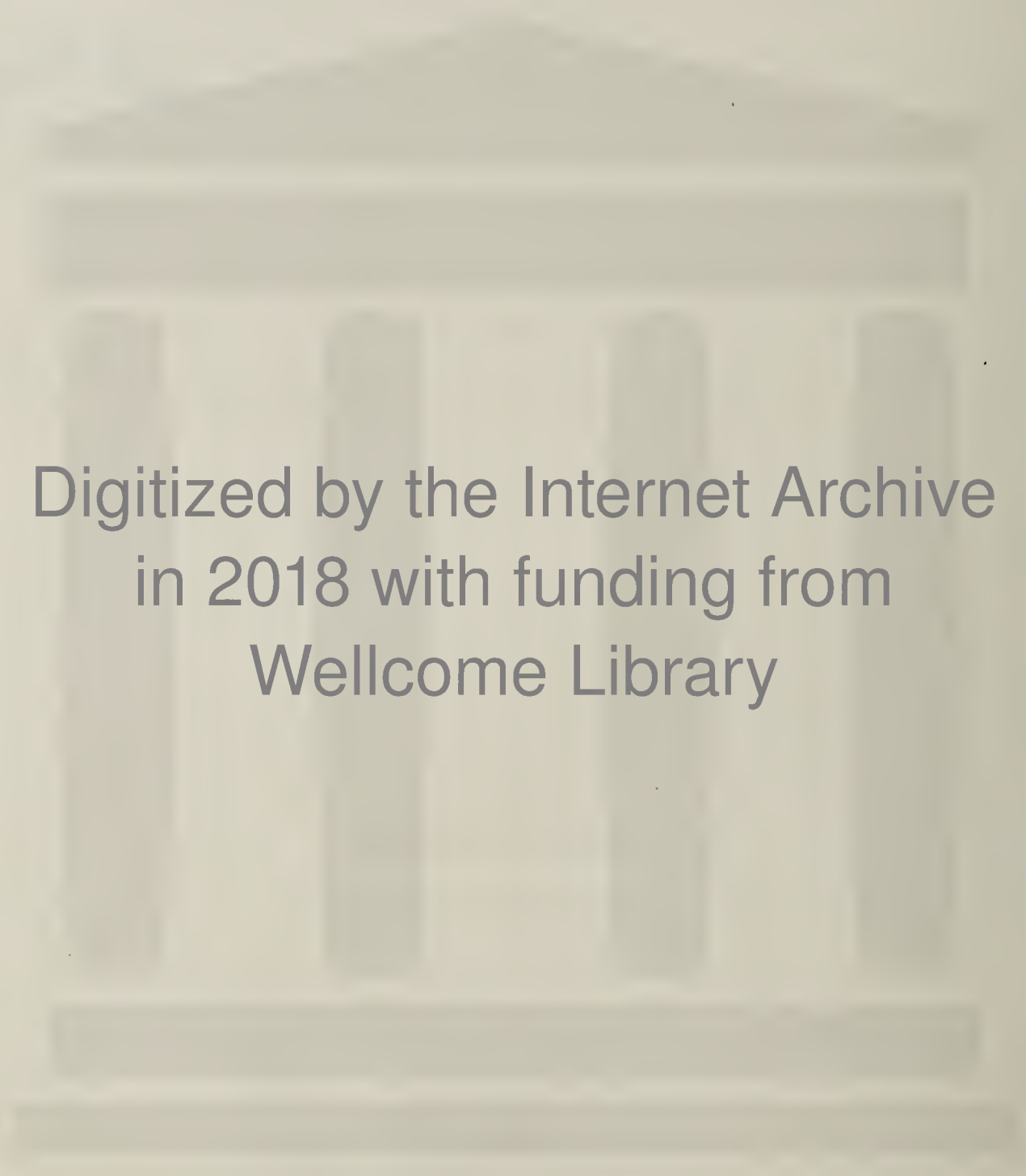


TO  
THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY  
J. J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.  
(District Medical Officer of Health).

AND  
J.W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.  
(Chief Sanitary Inspector).

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report on the health of your District for 1947.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registrar General's Population Estimate - 14,530.

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate,	153	151	304.
Illegitimate,	7	10	17
	160	161	321.

<u>STILL-BIRTHS.</u>			
Legitimate,	4	3	7.
Illegitimate,	-	-	-
	4	3	7.

	1946.
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 22.1.	19.0.
Still-Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 21.3.	28.4.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>DEATHS.</u>	94	93	187.

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population - 12.9 13.1.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Rates per 1,000 total  
(Live and Still) Births.

Puerperal Sepsis.	}	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes.		
Total.		

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under one year.	10	3	13.
Deaths of Legitimate infants.	10	3	13.
Deaths of illegitimate infants.	-	-	-

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	40.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	43.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).	24.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).	2.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u>	<u>District.</u>
	1947.	1947.	1946.
Birth Rate.	20.5.	22.1.	19.0.
Death Rate.	12.0.	12.9.	13.1
Infant Mortality Rate.	41.	40.	33.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

The following Table gives the causes of death during 1947.

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid fevers.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	2	2
Diphtheria.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	6	5	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases.	-	-	-
Influenza.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Acute Polio-encephalitis.	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis.	-	1	1
Cancer. . Malignant Disease.	13	11	24
Diabetes.	-	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	14	9	23.
Heart Disease.	25	30	55.
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	1	1	2.
Bronchitis.	4	8	12.
Pneumonia.	3	4	7
Other Respiratory diseases.	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	2	-	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	-	-	-
Appendicitis.	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases.	4	3	7.
Nephritis.	2	2	4.
Puerperal Sepsis &c.	-	-	-
Other Maternal causes.	-	-	-
Premature Birth.	4	-	4
Con. Mal. Birth Inj. Inf. Dis.	3	1	4
Suicide.	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-
Other Violent causes.	1	2	3
All other causes.	7	11	18
 TOTALS.	 94	 93	 187.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

General pooling of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases in the County of Worcester is continued, and works satisfactorily. Cases other than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are removed to hospitals outside the area of the local Joint Hospital Board owing to lack of cubicle accommodation and to shortage of nursing staff.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### Water Supplies.

A total of 2,150 houses are now supplied with piped water, the main source originating from the springs at Overbury on the Bredon Hills. The parish of Wyre has now been included in the main supply. An independent supply to Bredon is chlorinated and by arrangement with the Cheltenham Corporation an additional 110,000 gallons per day is pumped into the Pershore mains. There are still a few houses that have to depend on communal stand pipe supplies. Samples from the main supply have been regularly taken and have been satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically.

There remains in this Rural Area about 2,000 dwellings solely dependent upon shallow well supplies, many of which are quite unfit for drinking from a bacteriological point of view. The presence of faecal coli in many cases being due to manurial treatment of the land.

The projected Coventry scheme has not yet been commenced but it is hoped that a supply for Pershore will be available within two years.

The Council are intending to sink boreholes in connection with Housing site developments and in some cases, where the yield and purity is satisfactory, extend the service to the neighbouring parish.

### Sewage Disposal.

A comprehensive scheme not being considered practical for the district, the Consultant Engineers have been asked to prepare independent schemes, on ad hoc area groupings. One small works at Upper Moor village has received approval and an extension at Eckington is awaiting on information. Blocks of recently erected Council houses are sewaged by septic tanks with land filtration, but new groups are to be provided with septic tanks and humus tanks, together with mechanical filters.

100 houses are on pail closets, but the number converted to the water carriage system (at end of June, 1948) is 50.

### HOUSING.

43 new houses have been built by the Council and 25 by private builders during the year.

Since the War, Council houses completed number 82, other bodies building 46. A considerable amount of overcrowding has been thereby abated, but several families still occupy unfit dwellings.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

In addition to the Inspector of Weights and Measures, samples are taken by the Sanitary Department staff under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1928 - 38. There are 14 registered premises for the sale of ice-cream. These and other food stores are under regular supervision. Dairies and cowsheds are also under regular inspection, and in many cases, necessary improvements to premises have been carried out under official supervision.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	M/c line No.	Number on Regis- ter.	NUMBER OF			M/c line No.
			Inspec- tions.	Written Notices	Occup- iers Prosec- uted.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7).
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	18	32	Nil	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	21	44	Nil	Nil	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	3	3	9	Nil	Nil	3
TOTAL.		42	85	Nil	Nil	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	M/c line No.	NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were insti- tuted.	M/c lin No.
		Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspr.	Referred By H.M. Inspr.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8).
Want of cleanliness.	4	4	4	--	--	--	4
Overcrowding	5	--	--	--	--	--	5
Unreasonable temperature	6	--	--	--	--	--	6
Inadequate ventilation.	7	--	--	--	--	--	7
Ineffective drainage of floors.	8	1	1	--	--	--	8
Sanitary Conveniences (a) sufficient.	9	2	1	--	--	--	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	10	7	4	--	3	--	10
(c) Not separate for sexes.	11	--	--	--	--	--	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	12	--	--	--	--	--	12
TOTAL.	60	14	10	--	3	--	60.



OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES - SECTIONS 110 AND 111.

There were no instances of this during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	21	15	-
Diphtheria.	7	7	1
Pneumonia.	1	-	-
Measles.	54	-	-
Anterior Polio-myelitis.	1	1	-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE CASES  
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>SCARLET FEVER.</u>	<u>DIPHTHERIA.</u>	<u>PNEUMONIA.</u>	<u>MEASLES.</u>	<u>ANTERIOR POLIO-MYELITIS</u>
Under 1 year	-	-	-	1	-
1 - 2 years	-	-	-	6	-
3 - 4 years	-	3	-	9	-
5 - 10 years	13	1	-	32	-
11 - 15 years	1	2	-	3	1
16 - 20 years	3	1	1	3	-
21 - 35 years	2	-	-	-	-
36 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	-
46 - 65 years	1	-	-	-	-
66 and over.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	21	7	1	54	1

SCARLET FEVER.

21 cases were notified as against 2 in 1946, chiefly affecting school children. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

No notifications were received.

ANTERIOR POLIO-MYELITIS.

One case was notified which recovered.

DIPHTHERIA.

Seven cases were notified. There were two deaths both of non-immunised persons - one aged four and the other aged 30 years. Two of those affected had been immunised and recovered.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The table below gives the numbers immunised during the year.

<u>Numbers Immunised.</u> <u>(0 - 4 inclusive).</u>	<u>Numbers Immunised.</u> <u>(5 - 14 inclusive).</u>	<u>Total.</u>
132	9	141

146 children attending school were given a re-inforcing dose during the year. A considerable number of infants have been immunised by private practitioners. It is estimated that approximately three-quarters of the child population have been immunised.

## SCHOOLS.

It was not found necessary to close any schools for infectious disease occurrence.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table includes notifications and deaths arising from this disease in 1947.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	4	4	-	1	2	2	-	-
25 - 34 years	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	-
35 - 44 years	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-
45 - 54 years	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS.	8	8	2	2	5	7	2	0

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis	-	14.
Number of tuberculosis notifications	-	20.

J. J. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.



# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR - 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947. During the past year it has been possible to devote more time to Public Health matters, but the Housing programme has of course had to take preference.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply.

The piped supply has been quite satisfactory and there has been no action taken in respect of any form of contamination or plumbosolvency.

### Water Supply from Wells.

Number of samples submitted for analysis - 36.

<u>SATISFACTORY.</u>		<u>UNSATISFACTORY.</u>	
<u>CHEMICAL.</u>	<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL.</u>	<u>CHEMICAL.</u>	<u>BACTERIOLOGICAL.</u>
9	6	27	30.

Sampling has not been carried out to the extent I would have wished, but owing to increasing duties and lack of staff this has not been possible.

Number of borcholes sunk.	1.
Number of wells sunk.	15.
Number of wells cleansed and repaired.	3.
Number of wells closed as polluted.	2.
Number of houses connect to mains.	231.
Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with.	9.

It is hoped that boreholes may prove satisfactory for supplying water to both housing sites and adjacent properties.

### Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

It has become apparent that it would not be practicable to sewer the whole district and effect treatment at one central works and Messrs. Willcox, Raikes & Marshall have therefore been asked to prepare indepdent schemes probably embracing 2 or 3 parishes. The Town of Pershore is badly in need of up-to-date sewers and disposal works. Other parishes which require improved arrangements are Eckington, Little Comberton and Elmley Castle. Part of Upper End, Eckington, has been re-sewered. It has been found necessary to completely overhaul the Whittington Sewage Disposal Works. The foul water and surface water sewers for the proposed development of the Abbey Grounds Housing Estate are under construction.

### House Drainage.

Number connected to sewer, septic tank or relaid.	94.
Number trapped, ventilated and repaired.	16.
Number of obstructed drains dealt with.	47.
Number of house drains tested.	50.

### Water Closets.

It is proposed to convert all earth and pail closets in the Town of Pershore in the near future. There remains about 106 to be converted.

No. of conversions.	14.
No. of defective W.C.'s remedied.	7.
No. of additional W.C.'s installed.	8.

### Rivers and Streams.

At the moment the whole of the sewage from the Town of Pershore passes through a number of septic tanks direct into the river. In view of the extended water services, the additional flow through the sewers due to the provision of water closets and the dilapidated brick culverts, the need for re-sewering the whole Town is paramount and very urgent. No scheme has been received from the Consulting Engineers. As a result of the above, the pollution of the river Avon at Pershore is excessive and should be attended to forthwith. Similarly, at times there is river pollution at Bredon.

### Public Cleansing.

A scheme for the collection of refuse and salvage in Pershore once a week and other parishes once a fortnight will be put into operation with effect from 1st January, 1948, as it is felt that the present service is unsatisfactory. A new 17 cubic yard vehicle has been ordered but unfortunately will not be delivered until April, 1949.

A cesspool and gulley emptier would be a valuable addition to the Public Cleaning Department for street cleaning and the emptying of septic tanks.

No. of sanitary dustbins provided as a result of notices.	2.
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Bins are provided and maintained to Council tenants.

### Method of Refuse Disposal.

A proposed Evesham and Pershore joint destruction scheme was abandoned due to uneconomical running costs. At the moment "controlled tipping" is being practiced with increasing satisfactory results.

### Camping Sites.

(a) No. of sites used for camping.	4.
(b) No. of sites licensed under P.H.A. 1936, Section 269.	Nil.
(c) No. of sites closed for camping.	2.
(d) No. of moveable dwellings in full time occupation.	8. (flexible)
(e) No. of sites dealt with as unsanitary.	2.
(f) No. of fruit and hop-pickers quarters.	3.

There is an ever increasing number of persons wishing to occupy moveable dwellings and it would be advisable in the future to control definite camping areas. Seasonal pickers and gipsies are uncontrollable during the summer months. The hop-pickers quarters leave much to be desired and will need improvement in 1948.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There has been action taken under Section 9 with regard to sanitary arrangements.



No. of premises visited.	85.
No. of cases of improvements to sanitary accommodation.	5.

### DISINFESTATION.

One serious case occurred at a Land Army Hostel but has been satisfactorily cleared.

No. of houses disinfested.	12.
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Methods employed - the use of "thermatox" and D.D.T. liquid and zaldecide.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT AND INFESTATION ORDER.

No. of infestations dealt with at private houses.	40.
No. of infestations dealt with at business premises.	23.
No. of other infestations dealt with.	7.
No. of complaints received.	22.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supply.

No action has been taken under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations but many voluntary improvements have been carried out.

#### The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 - 46.

NO. OF DEALERS LICENCES (INCLUDING SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES) ISSUED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY DURING THE YEAR IN RESPECT OF:-	Tuberculin Tested Milk.	
	(1) Bottling.....1.....	(2) Distribution...1....
NO. OF LICENCES ISSUED IN RESPECT OF "PASTEURISED" MILK.	Accredited Milk.	
	(1) Bottling.....	(2) Distribution.....
	Pasteurising Plants.	Retail Distribution.
	Nil.	1.
	.....	.....

#### Farms.

No. of dairy farms.	186.
Approx. number of cows in dairy herds.	2,500.
No. of inspections during year.	75.
No. of dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than cowkeepers).	2.

For the most part there has been a marked increase in the general standard of milk production, but several bad cases in the district still persist. Retailing is carried out in churns, bottles and paper cartons.

#### Milk Sampling.

	<u>No. of samples taken for exam- ination.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
Designated T.T.	1	1	-
Ordinary.	10	6	4



Much sampling is carried out at present by the County Council, Milk Marketing Board, Milk Advisory Committee and there appears to be a great deal of overlapping.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No. of seizures as unfit for consumption.	Nil.
Meat.	25 lbs.
Liver.	5 lbs.
Bacon/Ham and Poultry.	30 lbs.
Cheese.	38 lbs.
Fresh Fruit.	255 lbs.
Tomato Puree.	2,772 lbs.
Prepared Foodstuff and Cake.	69 lbs.
Fats.	341 lbs.
Pork.	1 side.
Fish.	83 stone.
Eggs.	138 doz.
Tinned Milk.	26 tins.
Other Canned Goods.	78 tins.
Vegetables.	40 cwt.

There is no public slaughter house in Pershore District. There has been one suspected mild epidemic of food poisoning th ought to be due to the chemical spraying of cabbages.

#### ICE CREAM.

No. of Manufacturers registered.	Nil.
No. of Retailers registered.	14.
No. of Samples taken for analysis.	Nil.

#### ADULTERATION ETC.

No. of samples taken for analysis.	5.
No. of samples certified genuine.	4.
No. adulterated.	1.

#### SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR (EXCLUDING HOUSING).

Number of premises visited:-

General Complaints.	56.
Shops and Bakehouses.	10.
Moveable Dwellings.	4.
Infectious Diseases.	28.
Schools.	11.
Cafe's, Kitchens and Hotels.	9.
Cowsheds.	75.
Drainage.	184.
Milk and Water sampling.	47.
Rats and Mice Destruction.	14.
Verminous Premises.	22.
Hop-pickers.	5.
Petroleum Licences.	5.
Nuisances or Defects	) No. discovered. 36. No. abated. 21.
No. of Notices served	
	) Informal. 15. Formal. 2.
Legal Proceedings.	
Miscellaneous.	201.

## HOUSING. (STATISTICS).

- |       |  |      |
|-------|--|------|
| 1 (a) | No. of new houses erected during the year by L.A.  | 43.  |
| (b)   | No. of new houses erected during the year by private enterprise.   | 25.  |
| 2 (a) | No. of houses inspected for housing defects. (Under Public Health and Housing Acts.                                    | 207. |
| (b)   | No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 2.   |
| (c)   | No. of dwellings not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (excluding 2(b)).                             | 19.  |
| (d)   | No. of houses inspected under Housing Rural Survey.  | 40.  |

## OVERCROWDING.

Cases of overcrowding are very high and it is impossible to check statistics. Some cases have been relieved due to the completion of 68 new houses.

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of houses disinfected. 28.

(Formaldehyde, gas and formalin spray was used in every case. Clothing, bedding, etc., is steam disinfected where necessary at the Isolation Hospital.)

There has been no serious outbreaks of infectious diseases or other abnormal illness during the year.

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## CONCLUSION.

1. Sanitary improvements taken place during the year include the laying of 220 yards of 6" and 4" sewer at Upper End, Eckington.
2. The chief sanitary requirements of the district still remain the same - i.e.
  - (i) the replacement of the existing brick sewers with glazed pipes and the provision of a satisfactory sewage disposal works in Pershore, and
  - (ii) provision of a main water supply and sewerage schemes to many of the parishes.

I would like to thank Doctor Murray, the Medical Officer of Health for his valued assistance during the year and to the members of my Department.

I am,  
Yours obediently,

J.W. HOLMES.

Sanitary Inspector.

